



US Army Corps of Engineers

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Enjoy safe Labor Day weekend fun at Mill Creek, Bennington Lake

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – The upcoming Labor Day holiday weekend is a great time to visit U.S. Army Corps of Engineers parks and recreation facilities at Mill Creek Dam and Bennington Lake, operated by the Walla Walla District.

Outdoors enthusiasts can enjoy scenic views while taking advantage of picnicking, fishing, boating and swimming opportunities at Mill Creek recreation sites.

It's also a time to remember safety whenever playing in, on or near the water. Here are a few safety tips District park rangers hope visitors will remember while having fun at Corps lakes and recreation facilities: swim with a buddy, don't dive where you don't know what's under the surface, and don't consume intoxicants when operating recreational vessels. Boaters must ensure properly fitted personal floatation devices (life jackets) are on board for each person – children 12 and younger are required to wear PFDs when in a boat. State boating, hunting and fishing regulations apply to visitors at Corps sites. Hunting on Corps property is allowed in designated areas only.

Corps recreation facilities attract many visitors and to make the experience a safe and happy one for everybody, a few rules apply, because safety is everyone's responsibility.

Some areas have local restrictions on open fires, so remember to check with park managers and rangers when visiting. Leave firearms and other weapons at home. Keep in mind that alcohol is not permitted on Corps properties in Washington. Corps park rangers, as well as local law enforcement officials, will be patrolling throughout the holiday weekend to assist visitors.

Contact information unless stated otherwise: Mill Creek Dam and Bennington Lake. Telephone: (509) 527-7160. Email: MillCreek@usace.army.mil.

Mill Creek Office – *Getting there:* from Hwy. 12 at the east end of Walla Walla, exit south onto Tausick Way, continue past Walla Walla Community College, immediately on the south side of the Mill Creek crossing, turn left onto Reservoir Road and follow it about 1 mile to the office, located on the left side of the road.

Rooks Park – gates open to vehicles 7 a.m. to sunset (open year round to pedestrian traffic). *Facilities:* day-use area, picnic shelters (reserve by contacting the Mill Creek office), playground, restrooms, horseshoe pits, sand volleyball court. Pets must be on a leash. *Getting there:* from Hwy. 12 at the east end of Walla Walla, exit south onto Tausick Way, at the stop sign, turn west onto Mill Creek Road and follow it 1 mile to Rooks Park Road on the right.

Bennington Lake Recreation Area – open year round, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.. *Facilities:* day-use area, picnic shelters, boat ramp, pedestrian/horseback-riding trails, hunting, fishing. *Getting there:* from Hwy. 12 at the east end of Walla Walla, exit south onto Tausick Way, continue past Walla Walla Community College, immediately on the south side of the Mill Creek crossing, turn left onto Reservoir Road and follow it to the lake.

Mill Creek Recreation Trail – open year round. *Facilities:* day-use area, pedestrian, roller-blade and bicycle traffic are allowed on paved trail. Pets must be on a leash. The trail follows Mill Creek from the city of Walla Walla to Rooks Park, forming part of a network of over 20 miles of multiple-purpose trails. Parking as well as access to these trails can be found at Rooks Park, Bennington Lake and the Mill Creek Office.

Make it a safe and happy holiday weekend for everybody. For more information about Walla Walla District's outdoor recreation opportunities, check out their Web site at: www.nwww.usace.army.mil/corpsoutdoors/.

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Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: www.nwww.usace.army.mil

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil